



Creating a reading culture

Age 5-16

CFE Levels First to Senior Phase

Resource created by
Scottish Book Trust

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Scottish Book Trust
inspiring readers and writers

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About this resource

A reading culture will improve attainment, creativity and health and wellbeing across the curriculum. This resource contains ideas and activities to help you build a reading culture across your whole school. You do not need to use all the activity ideas in this resource; you can choose activities that suit you, your school setting and your school priorities.

Regular reading

Making reading a regular part of your school day is vital to creating a vibrant reading culture in any school. It is important that you take time to get to know your pupils and their interests, and to support them throughout the year to choose engaging and challenging books.

Just 5-10 minutes of reading every day in class or registration is a great way to get pupils into the habit of reading. Allowing pupils to read at transitional points during the day, such as after break or lunch, can also be a great way to settle a class. You can see in our case studies from [Renfew High School](#) and [St Andrews and St Bride's High School](#) the positive impact regular reading had on their pupils.

To facilitate regular reading effectively, you must ensure that pupils have access to their chosen reading for pleasure text. For lower primary, you could create a reading corner or nook with a bank of books; for upper primary, you could ensure that all pupils keep a book in their reading tray or on their desk; for secondary you could ask all pupils to keep a book in their locker or backpack. You could also create a small classroom library for forgetful pupils to borrow from during reading time.

Below are some more tips and ideas to support you to make reading for pleasure a regular habit in your class or school.

Read aloud to your class

It's important that all children have the opportunity to hear stories read aloud, and it's a great way to get them engaged in reading. Reading aloud is also an easy and cost-effective way to get pupils reading.

Select a class novel that you feel will interest your class- try to select a title that pupils might choose for themselves and one that would challenge their reading ability- and read it aloud to the group. You can read a few pages or a chapter at a time, depending on what suits your setting. Pupils will become hooked by the story and desperate to find what happens next. If you don't feel confident reading yourself, explore audio books at your local library (many now offer borrowing services online through services such as [BorrowBox](#) or [Libby](#)) or explore [BBC School Radio](#).

Visiting your library

Whether you have a school library or have access to your local library, visiting a library with your pupils is vital to familiarise them with books and reading. Visiting a library should be part of your regular reading schedule. Whilst in the library, signpost students to genres and areas that might be of interest to each of them. Pupils will often need direction when selecting a book, and can find a library a bit overwhelming. Regularly scheduling a library visit will familiarise book selection and the library environment with your pupils and make it a regular part of their reading life. Librarians and library staff can offer great support and advice for activities for library visits.

First lines

Getting to know a whole class or cohort's reading habits can be a daunting task. However, knowing their preferences will ensure you are able to support and promote their reading.

One fun way to find out about pupils' reading preferences is by creating a quiz based on the first lines of books. Ask pupils to rate the first line of novels from one to five; five being 'I would read on', and one being 'I would put this book down and move onto something else'. Make sure you include a variety of genres and reading levels to help you get a better indication of pupils' preferences. Use the pupil response as a guide for reading recommendations.

Alternatively, you can create your own reading quiz to give a more detailed overview of pupils' reading habits and preferences. There are a number of quizzes on TES you can adapt to suit your pupils: <http://bit.ly/TESReadingAttitudesSurvey>

Book speed dating

This is a great activity for allowing pupils to sample a variety of different books in a short space of time, and to help you get an indication of the books pupils' enjoy reading. Set out a number of different book stations and ask pupils to pick a book and spend a few minutes reading, before moving onto the next station. Pupils jot down their first impressions of the book as they go, and whether they would like to keep reading. You can see the format Banchory Academy follow [here](#).

Encourage pupils to interact with authors

Once you know some of the authors or genres that your pupils prefer, you can recommend that they find out more about that author. Many authors have their own blogs, website or Twitter accounts and will speak on a personal level about their work, as well as keeping their fans up to date with news. Encourage pupils to find out the latest news from the author they are reading or write to the author on behalf of your class.

Meaningful conversations

Take time across the year to talk to learners about their reading interests. Ask them what they are reading for pleasure, enjoying, or not enjoying reading. Once you have established what pupils like, introduce them to strategies for choosing new material. Encourage pupils to explore new formats, genres or authors. For more confident readers, direct them to more challenging texts and formats. You can explore the [booklists](#) on the Scottish Book Trust website for suggestions.

To make these recommendations extra special, you could leave surprise recommendations on pupils' desks or put them into their trays. You could even wrap them to create even more excitement!

Drop everything and read

Holding a regular 'drop everything and read', where everyone in the school drops whatever they are doing and reads for a set period, can be a great way to create a buzz around reading. Make sure all staff across the school are involved, including support staff, so that pupils know that all adults in the school value setting time aside for reading. Some schools have also created their own acronym to make "DEAR" time specific to their setting.

Get pupils to make a reading pledge

Getting your pupils to make a pledge to do one reading-related thing during a week can be a great way to spread the message that reading can take many different forms. They do not have to pledge to read an entire book – here are some suggestions to show them that all reading is good reading:

- Read a book to one of their younger siblings
- Read a newspaper every day of the week
- Read a short story every night
- Find an interesting blog on a subject they enjoy and read a post every day
- Join a book group
- Join the local library

You could display everyone's pledges on a pledge wall in your school. If you work in a secondary school, you can find ready-made reading challenges and dares on our [Bookzilla app](#).

Extreme reading

Extreme reading is a great way to get pupils interested in books, especially reluctant readers. Hold a competition to see who can be photographed reading in the most obscure or entertaining location! There are some [great examples of extreme reading](#) available online. You can also read this [TES article](#) on how extreme reading can transform reluctant readers' engagement with literature.

School environment

To embed a reading culture across your setting, it is vital to make reading visible in your school environment. This can be through reading displays and appealing and comfortable reading spaces.

Here are a number of other ideas to help you make reading visible in your school.

'I am currently reading' badges and door signs

Ask everyone in school – including all staff and any visitors – to wear an 'I am currently reading' or an 'ask me what I am reading' badge. This makes reading

visible but also helps to start conversations around books. You could also add 'currently reading' to your email signature to start conversations outside your school environment.

Encourage staff to put up signs on their doors saying what they are currently reading. For older pupils, you could also include what you are currently watching, as this encourages pupils to see books as entertainment. You can binge on a book series in the same way you binge on a TV series!

Recommendations wall

Create a recommendations wall. This should be interactive so pupils can write recommendations to each other. One quick and effective wall display is to write each pupil's name on a paper cup and staple them to your display. When pupils finish a book, encourage them to write a recommendation to a peer on a slip of paper and pop it into that person's recommendation cup. Pupils can check their cups to find their next read!

You could also get pupils to write recommendations of children's books for staff to read, perhaps on a particular theme.

Another option would be to start the year with an empty book shelf wall display or outline of a tree, and add leaves or book spines (slips of paper) as your class finish books. They can add a short comment and give it a star rating out of five. As the year goes on, their tree will flourish with lots of leaves and their bookshelf will grow. Encourage your class to look at the display to get ideas for what they fancy reading next.

Reading spaces

Where can pupils read in your school? A school library is an important resource for your school. However, you don't have to stop there! Classroom and outdoor spaces can also provide pupils with a stimulating place to read. If you don't currently have a dedicated library space, other reading spaces are even more important.

Some pupils may view reading as a school or desk activity, so talk to them about where they like to read at home. Creating a relaxing reading space in your classroom will allow pupils to get comfy whilst they read, and see reading as an enjoyable activity.

You can create a reading area in your classroom by decorating it with posters, bookmarks and pupil reviews, and adding additional items such as cushions and blankets to make it cosy. Keep this area away from the flow of classroom traffic. Make pupils aware of what books are available in the reading space: if there are groups of books about animals, transport, weather and other topics, group these together and put up signs to make it easier for pupils to find what they are looking for.

If you have limited space, you can attach battery-powered fairy lights underneath the desks and bring out cushions when it is reading time to create a comfortable reading den that can be easily packed away.

Classroom door challenge

To celebrate [Book Week Scotland](#) or a school book week, you can turn classroom doors into book jackets! Take a look at what Oban High School came up with: bit.ly/ObanHSbookjacketdoors. You could introduce a competitive element by asking pupils to vote for their favourite door.

Recover your library

We all know we're not supposed to judge a book by its cover. To make *sure* pupils don't let a cover put them off a book, cover library books with blank paper, ask different pupils to read them and get them to leave a review or description on a post-it inside or outside the book.

Book seeks reader

A great idea we have seen in Inveralmond High School's library, was where the librarian found some 'unloved' books and displayed them with a lonely-hearts message appealing to a potential reader. These were all brilliant books that just hadn't been borrowed in a while, and the librarian wrote a description of the book, along with the kind of reader it might appeal to. You could do this or get your pupils to find some unloved books and write the messages!

Reading role models

To support a reading culture across your whole school, it is important that all staff, including support staff, act as reading role models.

Once you have established staff as reading role models, you can support pupils to promote reading and books to one another through learner role modelling.

Here are some suggestions to help you create reading role models in your school.

Be a reading role model

It can be very powerful for pupils to see teachers' reading lives, particularly if you are sharing the rewards but also the challenges you experience while reading. We sometimes re-read old favourites, and read books which present varying levels of challenge, from classic literature to thrillers and more. We all experience challenges in our reading: sometimes we have to read and re-read before we understand something, sometimes we don't finish books, and sometimes we don't know what to read next.

- Talk to your pupils about your reading life – take some time at the start of class to speak about what you are currently reading and invite them to do the same.
- Let them see you reading a wide variety of texts – whatever you're keen on; graphic novels, non-fiction, autobiography, magazines, etc.
- Talk to them about the challenges you experience as a reader and how you get around them – talk about which books you have not finished, and why.

For more information about this, look at [this article](#) about how one teacher made the process of talking about books part of her class's weekly activities.

Staff interviews

Get pupils to interview members of staff about their favourite books. If the interviews are filmed, they could form part of a school reading video, which you could then show at a reading celebration event! You could also make use of a school podcast or radio programme if you have one. Questions could include:

- What was your favourite book as a child? (Pupils could follow up by reading that book and leaving a comment on the recommendations wall – see the previous task!)
- Are there any books you would recommend to pupils?
- What is the best non-fiction book you've read recently?
- How do you choose the books you read?
- What was the last book you read but didn't finish?

You can take this further by getting pupils to interview members of the community too.

Creating pupil role models

It is important that you involve pupils as reading role models. Pupils can act as reading ambassadors and share books in reading assemblies, wear "ask me what I am reading" badges, or act as reading mentors.

When selecting pupils to be part of your reading committee, remember to include your reluctant readers as well as keen readers. Involving reluctant readers will boost confidence and help pupils start their reading journey. Reluctant readers can also offer insights into areas for improvement for your school and help address questions of why they are not engaging. For example, does your library stock need refreshing? Are there different formats you could introduce for reluctant readers which other readers would enjoy too? Which authors would they like to invite into school?

Once you have established a pupil group, you can get them involved in a variety of activities. For example, they can be involved in the planning of activities for World Book Day or Book Week Scotland, they could run a reading club, or plan a reading flash mob.

Paired reading

Pupils can act as role models though paired reading with young pupils. There are lots of benefits to paired reading, and Scottish Book Trust have a thorough [paired reading toolkit](#) to help you prepare older children for the responsibility of helping younger ones to discover books.

Events and celebrations

As part of your whole school reading culture, it is important to always celebrate reading and reading achievements. You can do this on a regular basis through certificates and awards gifted in assemblies. But you can also celebrate reading through events in schools and creating a buzz of excitement around reading.

Here are some ideas for events and celebrations you can hold in your school.

Reading assemblies

Assemblies are the ideal opportunity for you to promote books on a regular basis. Ideas can include:

- A book recommendation section, where a pupil or staff member can recommend one of their favourite reads.
- A meet with a literary character (one of the teachers in disguise).
- A meet with another school, sharing recommendations.
- A 'most despicable character' trial! You could hold a school vote to find most despicable character ever to appear in a children's book, and then hold a trial where all the evidence is considered. You can get pupils to call out with their evidence, and then shout for the character they think should be convicted!

Authors Live

Watch a Scottish Book Trust Authors Live event! Our Authors Live programme brings the best UK authors, poets, illustrators and storytellers straight into your classroom. The author events are streamed live from Glasgow with our partner BBC Scotland Learning. You can discover the exciting line up of future events on the [Scottish Book Trust website](#).

Our Authors Live [Watch on Demand](#) Library has a range of over 70 digital recorded events with top children's authors including Jacqueline Wilson, Julia Donaldson, David Walliams, Oliver Jeffers and Jackie Kay. Why not hold a virtual book festival by screening one event each day of the week? Or watch one on World Book Day or during Book Week Scotland?

Take part in Scottish Book Trust prizes

Whether you are in a primary or secondary setting, there are opportunities to get involved in a national vote through our [Bookbug Picture Book Prize](#) and our [Scottish](#)

[Teenage Book Prize](#). Read the three shortlisted books with your pupils and vote for your favourite! You can hold voting events and create exciting activities around each book. Explore our resources for each prize to get tips and ideas for voting events.

Hold your own book awards

Why not host your own book awards? Scholastic has some advice and templates to set up a class [book awards scheme](#) – their suggested framework should help get you started, and there are some great suggestions for award categories.

Remember, you don't have to restrict your awards to writers: why not get pupils to vote for their favourite illustrators as well?

Put on a reading flashmob

A flashmob is a public stunt of some description, captured on video and often circulated on the Internet. Pupils always have fun with flashmobs, and as the following examples show, they can be done very simply!

- Reading flashmob- pupils read their books aloud, starting with just one pupil and more and more join the group.
- Recreating a scene- Why not get your pupils to do a flashmob recreating an iconic scene from a book?
- Book dominoes– book dominoes is a great stunt for your pupils to plan. Here's an example from [Book Week Scotland](#) to show to your pupils and get them talking and inspired.
- Flash read- a flash mob doesn't always need to be captured on video. Dunbar Primary pupils went into their local ASDA to read aloud from their favourite books at various parts of the store – ASDA staff joined in too!

Hold a book swap event

Holding a school-wide book swap is always fun! To ensure everyone leaves with at least one book, you can ask for book donations from staff or publishers, and, if pupils have them, they can bring in pre-loved books from home.

You could use the 'lucky book dip' format where everyone brings one book they really like, wraps it in paper and puts a note inside saying why they like it.

Hold a book bistro or book café

St Andrew's and St Bride's High held a book bistro for their pupils to create a buzz around reading in their school. One classroom was converted into the bistro using colourful sheets, cushions and blankets. Pupils were given a pass to attend the bistro and were allowed to sit and read, and were served hot chocolate by staff. You can read more about it in their [case study](#).

You could also serve 'book canapés' at your café or bistro –print outs of amazing opening pages to hook readers, fun facts from non-fiction books and action spreads from graphic novels.

Create intrigue about your event

You can build excitement and anticipation about your event by keeping the details a secret, but leaving clues and hints around the school to spark pupils' curiosity. Creating excitement and positive memories around reading will help to engage reluctant or disengaged pupils.

You could appoint a committee of pupils to design a campaign designed to build intrigue. For instance, they could create a sense of mystery with some of the following activities:

- 'Save the date' posters – these could advertise the date of the event, but not say what the actual event is going to be. Particularly effective if you plan to invite an author in to visit – they can be billed as a 'mystery guest'.
- Designate a 'planning room' and mark it with a 'TOP SECRET' notice.
- Hand out props – if you are planning to use any props at your event (for instance, name badges, lanyards, and voting slips) these could be passed out to pupils several days before the event, to arouse curiosity.
- Record a news bulletin – find out how one UK school used this to create intrigue in the following blog: bit.ly/RomanMurderMysteries

Holding an author event

Bringing a writer, illustrator, poet or storyteller into school is a hugely rewarding experience for you and your pupils. Scottish Book Trust run the [Live Literature](#) programme, which allocates part-funded writer visits.

Scottish Book Trust also runs [Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour](#), which provides fully-funded author events to schools across Scotland. [Visit our website](#) to check which local authorities the tour will be visiting next.

If you want to fund the visit on your own using PEF or other funds, you can contact the writer at any point rather than waiting for the Live Literature application window to open. Scottish Book Trust have a [database of writers](#) living and working in Scotland.

To ensure you and your pupils get the most out of an author visit, use our '[making the most of an author event](#)' learning resource.

Links to the curriculum

An effective way to embed books and reading across your school is to create links to the curriculum. This will create opportunities for pupils to respond to books in different ways.

You can explore [Scottish Book Trust website](#) for resources on specific authors or books to inspire book projects or books for class novels.

Here are some ideas to help you create links to reading across the curriculum.

Read, Write, Count

The Read, Write, Count bags, gifted to every Primary 2 and 3 pupil in Scotland, are an excellent way to create links across the curriculum. Scottish Book Trust produces [resources](#) to support using the books in school, with activities linked to all curriculum areas. The books and resources offer a great opportunity to plan a cross-curricular picture book project. Find out how Corpus Christi Primary School used [Steve Terror of the Seas](#) for a class project.

Books across the school

Tie reading into every curricular area. If you are in a secondary school, encourage different subject teachers to put relevant fiction into their classrooms. Explore our book lists for title recommendations for class libraries for [history](#), [geography](#) and [modern studies](#).

Focus on one book

You can focus on one book as a school, and encourage activities across all curriculum areas based on that book. If you work in a secondary school, explore this case study from [Trinity High School](#) for ideas and [these examples](#) of reading across the curriculum from schools across Scotland.

For primary level, you could focus on one book across the school but use it differently with different age groups. For example, if you selected a wordless picture book, lower primary could practice verbal retellings and upper primary could focus on creative writing and continuing the story.

Equally, at primary level the Curriculum for Excellence offers plenty of flexibility to use a book as part of a class project that explores a number of curriculum areas. You can [watch this video](#) from Wallace Primary School in Renfrewshire to see how they used Pugs of the Frozen North as a focus for a term long project.

Raise funds for books

Pupils can run an enterprise project to raise funds for books for your school, or to donate to another organisation you have links with.

One enterprise activity pupils could do as part of the project is make their own book. You can explore our resource on [making a picture book](#) in our paired reading toolkit and our guidelines on [creating an anthology](#).

If you are looking to run an enterprise project to gift books to another school elsewhere in the world, the Pelican Post website (pelican-post.org/index.php) is a great place to start, and gives advice on sourcing a school, instructions for delivery and enterprise ideas.

Creating social networks

When building a reading culture, it is important to create networks across the school that allow staff and pupils to talk about their reading lives. This builds confidence and gives learners the space to explore and discover their own reading identity.

Here are some suggestions of the social networks you can create in your school.

60 second sell

In this activity, pupils pitch a recent book they have read to their peers. Pupils sit in pairs and have an allocated amount of time (one minute or 30 seconds) to pitch their book to their partner and discuss what they like or do not like. When the time is up, one of the pair moves to sit in a new pair. This continues until pupils are back in their original pair. This model allows pupils to hear what their peers are reading, gain reading recommendations and articulate opinions on what they are reading.

Book jenga

Pupils and staff alike can play this game. You play it like normal jenga, except that each block has a question on it for you to answer. All you need is a set of jenga blocks, a pen and some questions. Explore our [book jenga resource](#) to get ideas for creating your own. For staff, simply use the jenga blocks at a staff meeting or during lunch to start conversations around books and reading.

Reading café

Hold a regular reading café after school or during lunch that pupils can attend. They can sit and read together or discuss their latest book. You could also introduce book inspired craft activities or book quizzes.

Responding to reading

Allowing learners to share and respond what they are reading is a great way to create social networks between peers, but also with the wider school community.

- Write a journal entry or create a visual response to a book which is displayed in school
- Create a book trailer, video blog or blog and share in school or with parents
- For older pupils and where appropriate, use social media to share comments and thoughts on their reading material
- Use music, dance or drama to create a creative response to the book which can be shared with the class, school or wider community through a performance

Setting up book groups

Book groups are a great way to engage your whole school community in reading. Here are some book group suggestions:

- A **parent–child** book group: you could ask the pupils to read books along with their parents, and then ask pupils and parents to email book reviews to the school. You could then collate the reviews into a booklet.
- A **teacher–pupil** book group: you could select a book to read as a class, or hold weekly meets where pupils can recommend books to each other.
- A **transition** book group: why not invite some of the Primary 7 pupils from feeder primaries to visit and discuss their reading habits and currently reading titles with secondary pupils? You could get seniors to introduce the Primary 7 pupils to the secondary library.
- An **un-book group**: Rather than discussing books, why not discuss interesting articles from that week’s Sunday papers, or all bring along a blog you have disagreed with, or decide a theme (e.g. heroes and villains) and all bring books or other reading materials to talk about grouped around the theme.

Teacher book club

Setting up a teacher book club is a great way to increase your knowledge of contemporary children’s literature and broaden the variety of recommendations you offer your pupils. You can hold them whenever suits your staff, during lunch or after school. Explore [Scottish Book Trust booklists](#), or search for our #ChildrensBookChat on Twitter, to get ideas of recently published titles you might like to include. You can also contact your local library service to see how many copies of each title they have available.

One easy way to avoid the difficulty of getting a set of the same book is to pair read titles, rather than all read the same book. This way, you can hear about multiple new titles at your book group discussion and increase your knowledge without reading all the books. This is also a cost effective way to run a book group if you are looking to purchase the books, as you are only investing in two copies which can be added into your classroom or school library collection once read.

Spice up staff meetings

Why not ask one member of staff every week to talk for five minutes about the book they are currently reading? You can also organise book swaps, or set up a book lucky dip. Or, in the lead up to Christmas, why not organise a Secret Santa, where staff members gift books they own to each other? You might want to include a note explaining why you think your chosen recipient will like the book.

Involving families

Invite parents and families in to participate in your school's reading culture and get involved.

Bag gifting

It can be hard for families to come into school, but as part of your Bookbug or Read, Write, Count bag gifting you could invite parents in for a reading celebration event. You can find more gifting guidance for [Primary 1](#) and [Read, Write, Count](#) on our website. Read about how [Thornton School](#) got parents involved in their reading culture, and how Carron Primary held a [reading around the campfire](#) event.

Book swap station

At your reception, you can create a book swap for parents. You do not need to monitor the book swap, just let parents and visitors take and replace books at will.

Hold a celebration of books with parents and pupils

You can invite parents and pupils in for an evening of book-related activities. Ask pupils to think of a programme of entertainment for the evening. They will need to think about the following questions:

- What food would they like to have at the event?
- Who will they invite?
- How will people let them know they are coming?
- What activities will they plan for the evening (book trailer screenings, book readings, video reviews etc.)?
- Do they want to make an event programme to explain what is happening on the event? What will this look like?
- How will they advertise their event?
- Will there be any competitions? And how will the winners be decided?

It can be hard to engage parents in school reading activities and so we've gathered a lot of ideas and case studies in this area. You can find these in resources accompanying programmes that focus on parental engagement, such as Bookbug or Read Write Count. All the resources are available on our [website](#).

Run a mini social media campaign

Post a call out to parents on your school's blog, website, and Twitter or Facebook account. You could ask them to share some of the following things:

- Books they'd recommend for particular age groups
- Children reading something unusual
- Great bedtime reading

- Books dads have enjoyed with their children (targeted campaigns tend to work well for fathers)
- All the *reading*, not just books, that they do in a week (this helps to show pupils that all reading is good reading!)
- Their own favourite books (this helps encourage parents and carers to be reading role models to their children by keeping up their enthusiasm for reading)
- Reading during the holidays
- Children taking part in the extreme reading challenge.

Involving communities

You can take your reading culture into the local community by creating partnerships with local organisations and businesses.

Here are some ideas for how to engage your wider community in your reading culture.

Creating partnerships

Get local businesses involved in your reading celebrations and events. For example, you could ask businesses to sponsor the event, or invite them to attend to see what your school does and how you can work together. One school asked a local ice cream parlour to sponsor their event on *Gorilla Loves Vanilla* by Chae Strathie and the parlour provided ice cream for everyone attending. You could invite a local café to sponsor and provide hot chocolate for a read around the campfire or bedtime stories event. Or you could partner with your local hairdressers or local doctors or dentist surgery and encourage them to provide children with books whilst they wait. If pupils read whilst there they could get a sticker!

Invite members of the community in

You can invite members of the community into school to talk to pupils about their reading journey, or to link to a project. For example, you could invite the local police or fire service in to talk about reading and to read to classes during a project on emergencies.

To engage reluctant readers, you could invite members of local sports teams to talk about their reading habits. This shows pupils that people across the community value reading and create space for it in their lives.

Your town's favourite books

Encourage your pupils to go out into the community and interview people about their favourite books. They could speak about their favourite books now, or their childhood

favourites. You could get your pupils to compile their findings into a booklet (or a video if they film the interviews) for distribution throughout the school!

Your pupils might also want to design a survey to find out what people like best in a good book, or to find out the community's top 10 reads.

If you fancy going one-step further, you could do the same as Dunbar Primary School, who asked their community to each read one of three books over several months. The community can then vote on their favourites!

Book fairies project

To get books into your local (and wider) community, you could run a book fairies project. [Newtongrange Primary School](#) ran their own book fairies project, hiding books around their community. People could read them, add thoughts and re-hide them for other people to find- some of the books travelled a long way! They collaborated with the local paper to advertise their project and used a Twitter hashtag as a way for people to share comments when they found the books. A book fairies project is a great way to get members of the community involved and aware of your reading culture.

Paired reading with community groups

If you run a paired reading scheme in school, you could broaden this out to involve local care homes or other community groups. Our [intergenerational project resource](#) offers specific guidance on collaborating and working with vulnerable groups.